Mr. Les Payne
Newsroom
Newsday
550 Stewart Ave.,
Garden City, L.I. N.Y.11350

/3/76

Dear Les,

Your Abby Mann info was wrong in one respect: his special is for NBC News. I'm pretty sure.

Friday evening I got a call from a guy who used to be a friend at NBC News. Mann had been together with Fauntroy, from whom they'd taped a statement. He wanted to get some names straight, like Holloman, and didn't this all come from my book? I updated him on the police-fink-FBI angle, with which they had gone. Also an unclear bit on the pressures on the judge. Herb Brubaker also told me they were airing a piece on NBC net radio last night and that Anderson was going with a column this morning. It was set to support getting the Downing resolution out of the Rules committee pronto. I know that Lane et al had sold Anderson's people on this from calls from them a week ago having to do with some old CIA stuff he had fed them.

I keep a pillow speaker plugged into a radio tuned to an all-news station. I want to sleep more and I find that if something other than my work grabs my mind it is easier to go back to sleep. So last night I tuned it to the NBC Baltimore outlet, WBAL-FM. When I awakened about 5:20 it was toward the end of the item, Fuantroy's voice just going off with an FBI mention. Then the announcer said Fauntry got his information from Abby Mann, who is producing a special for NBC News. Beginning with Fauntry the above is approximately a direct quote. When I heard NBC it blocked the rest. It said either on Dr. King or the assassination, I'm not sure.

Another friend you do not know sent me Mann's address. I wrote him about a week ago. He may have been in Memphis and not know about it.

Friday night I wondered how NBC would be plugging an ABC special. This cleared that up.

Brubaker, a good professional, had a hard time with NBC. I suppose he is sweating out his retirement. I knew he when he was the net TV news assignment editor. He knew my work, not from me and I don t know how. I first met him, as I now recall, with Frame-Up. He wanted them to go for the book, hard. He introduced me to the Bureau manager, Jordan. He assigned the book to Carl Stern. He tried to get their house counsel to handle an FOIA case for me. It wound up with me telling that lawyer, Monderer, about FOIA instead. I gave him the official poop on how it works. (I also told Stern about it. He is a lawyer but had no interest until he filed the first Coinelpro suit with ACLU and then didn't know what to do or how he was conned by the FBI.) But all the indications of NBC interest were then so great I bought books to give them when asked for still more copies. Many trips there. Came to naught. I could not even get fiarness-doctrine time on their local outlet to balance Huie. Next time I saw Herb was at the press conference when I released some of what I'd gotten from the FBI through the new suit, to cut CBS' FBI propaganda off at the knees, which I did do. Monderer and a crew came over to Conyers' office and taped us both. Herb's attitude then was not what it had been so, knowing what had happened to him, going from a good TV alot to radio reporter, I did not push. It would hold the possibility of harm for him if I ask him for a dub of the tape of the whole thing of which that Fauntroy broadcast is part.

NBC radio is now a national "news" service. Rather poor news. If you don't get it up there it is divided with news of local origin. It has NYC headquarters. So, would you please phone them and without telling them they are crooks who stole your stuff, as it appears they have, ask them for the full tape? I think it is important for several reasons to have this. All indications are that getting this resolution out now is a loser.

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